

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN UK MH

SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24: VISITING MISSION TO MONTSEERRAT

REF: BRIDGETOWN 645

1. FOLLOWING ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY BRITISH LABOUR GOVERNMENT, HMG HAS REVERSED PREDECESSOR'S POLICY AND HAS OFFERED TESTIMONY TO UN COMMITTEE OF 24 CONCERNING BRITISH TERRITORIES. COMMITTEE ALSO HAS BEEN INVITED TO SEND MISSIONS TO VISIT BRITISH TERRITORIES. (OTHER ADMINISTERING POWERS INVITING COMMITTEE OF 24 TO VISIT THEIR TERRITORIES ARE AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. US AND FRANCE DECLINE TO ISSUE INVITATIONS.) TRAVEL BY UN GROUP TO MONTSEERRAT AT UK INVITATION FOLLOWS THAT UNDERTAKEN LAST YEAR TO GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

2. VISITING MISSIONS TEND TO BE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE AND ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF TERRITORIES TO WHICH TRAVEL IS MADE RECEIVES, FOR THE MOST PART, FAVORABLE REPORTS.

3. VISIT TO MONTSEERRAT, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 5-9, PRESUMABLY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE BY MEMBERS WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO VIEW PEOPLE OF TERRITORY AS OPPRESSED. THEIR PRINCIPAL INTEREST, NEVERTHELESS, WILL BE TO ASSURE THAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND
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LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS LEADING TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT. THERE

OFTEN ARE DIALECTIC DIFFERENCES AMONG COMMITTEE OF 24 MEMBERS
AS TO WHETHER INDEPENDENCE IS ONLY WAY WHEREBY SELF-DETERMINA-
TION MAY BE EXERCISED FULLY. AS LONG AS THAT DEGREE OF
GOVERNMENT EXERCISED BY PEOPLE IS DEEMED BY VISITING MISSION TO BE
CONSISTENT WITH WISHES OF PEOPLE, HOWEVER, BELIEVE ULTIMATE
REPORT, WHICH IS OBJECTIVE OF VISIT, WILL BE FAVORABLE.
THAT REPORT WILL BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER COMMITTEE OF 24, THEN
GA FOURTH COMMITTEE, DISCUSSION.
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